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Renaissance man

Student excels in academic and extracurricular careers

photo courtesy of Rikki Foster

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news co-editor

From winning the gold medal three times in Taekwondo at the Junior Olympics to living in four different countries, playing saxophone for the school band and maintaining a spot among the top 10 students in his junior class, Rikki Foster's life is a story of achievement.

At the age of 6, Rikki learned the basics of Taekwondo and excelled quickly.

"My parents put me in [Taekwondo] because I was such a small kid and they wanted me to be able to protect myself if I got picked on," Rikki said. "I pretty much liked it from the start and went practically everyday."

He adopted the saying that practice makes perfect, and perfection was what he ended up achieving. In 2002, Rikki went to the National Junior Olympics in Minneapolis, Minn., and won his first gold medal. After that, he won two more first place victories in the Junior Olympics. One in 2004 in Orlando, Fla., and

another in 2007 in San Jose, Calif.

"The last gold medal I got was won on a broken foot," Rikki said.

He also earned third place at the U.S. Open in 2005 in Atlanta, Ga. These four medals are just a few among the 50 to 60 medals he has earned over his nine years of competition. Foster has also used his gift to make a profit by teaching students at Vasquez Taekwondo.

"I love teaching Taekwondo. I get to work with hundreds of people ranging from 6 years old to 50," Rikki said. "I find it more benefiting than other jobs because it teaches me so many more skills that most jobs that teenagers have don't offer."

But Foster is not limited to just athleticism. He is also a member of the Royal Pride Band and plays the tenor saxophone. In the past two years, Rikki has made All Region band twice.

"Rikki is not only a good play - he's a fun guy with a good spirit and everyone is able to open up a little more around him," said band director Mr. Gilbert Stulting Flores. "He's a very good musician with great potential and he's well liked."

He has taken every available Pre-AP and AP course offered here, and that, combined with his outstanding grades, has currently earned him the seventh spot in the graduating class of 2009.

"I just happen to understand what's going on and then get good grades on the tests," Rikki said, "but I will go out of my way to help a friend understand a homework problem or anything."

Rikki is also extensively involved with many school clubs and organizations. He is a member of Habitat for Humanity, National Honor Society, Latin Club and Spanish Club.

"I like participating in lots of clubs because it's a good way to meet new people that have something in common with you," Rikki said.

By earning these types of grades and having this many extracurricular activities, college options for him are very broad.

Takedown
Junior Rikki Foster (standing) trains with fellow students at Vasquez Taekwondo.

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